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Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry
77-1443/A

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13 JUN 1977

The Honorable William W. Proxmire, Chairman
Joint Committee on Defense Production
United States Congress
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in regard to your letter of 18 May 1977 requesting that the Agency brief the Joint Committee on the state and effectiveness of Soviet passive defense programs with emphasis on the protection of Soviet defense production capacity.

Quite frankly, we were on the verge of publication of the unclassified report on Soviet Civil Defense in early May when new data was received. This information indicated that one of our principal findings, that on the capability to shelter population, might be off by a considerable factor. Accordingly, I have felt it prudent to delay publication until we can sort this one out. Unfortunately, it may take some months to do this as it requires going back through a lot of existing data to search for clues which were there but not uncovered previously.

I'm very sorry about this because I had hoped to be of assistance to the ongoing debate on this important question. I will, of course, be happy at any time to offer you a classified briefing on the exact status of the Soviet Civil Defense program as we currently see it.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER

- Distribution:
- Original - Addressee
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EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE

Congress

25X1

SENSITIVE INFORMATION

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Routing Slip

Remarks: Please
To 10: Develop DCI response.
Attached received 26 May.

D/Executive Secretary

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Congress of the United States

JOINT COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE PRODUCTION

(CREATED PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 774, 81ST CONGRESS)

ROOM A-421 SENATE ANNEX III

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Executive Registry
77-1443

May 18, 1977

The Honorable Stansfield Turner
Director of Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

When we met earlier this spring, you mentioned that you expected to release an evaluation of Soviet passive defense programs in the near future. As I believe you know, the Joint Committee has also been studying this matter since early 1976. I am pleased to be able to provide you with a copy of the committee's assessment, which is enclosed.

I would point out, however, that the committee's study was restricted primarily to theoretical considerations regarding passive defenses against strategic nuclear weapons and to currently public data on Soviet programs.

Since this is a subject of continuing importance to the nation, I believe it would be of the greatest assistance to the committee to have your views on the actual state and effectiveness of Soviet passive defense programs, either in a closed or, preferably, an open briefing.

As you will note from the committee's report, we are interested mainly in the Soviet ability to protect defense production capacity, because targets of this type figure prominently in U.S. target planning and in any effort to achieve a meaningful war recovery capability. I am sure you are aware that \$1.25 million has been authorized by the Senate for research and development on industrial and economic survivability in a nuclear attack. Before this figure grows into billions of dollars for industrial defense programs, there is an imperative need to understand whether such programs are either necessary or effective.

From PROXIMIX

- Soviet Civil (PASSIVE)
Defense. Does DDI

Want copy of REPORT,
which is DDI - P/S/O
to RECEIVING DDI'S COMMENTS?

No
But let's
move
promptly -

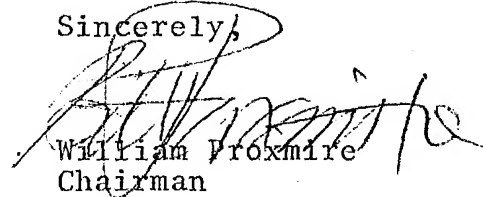
27 May 77

(Congress)

- 2 -

I look forward, therefore, to obtaining your evaluation of this issue and hope that the committee will have the benefit of your thinking in the near future, at a time that is convenient for you.

Sincerely,



William Proxmire
Chairman

Enclosure

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Honorable William W. Proxmire, Chairman
Joint Committee on Defense Production
United States Congress
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in regard to your letter of 18 May 1977 requesting that the Agency brief the Joint Committee on the state and effectiveness of Soviet passive defense programs with emphasis on the protection of Soviet defense production capacity.

Analysis to date of information collected is inconclusive; however, an extensive and detailed review of all available information on Soviet civil defense programs is now being conducted by the Intelligence Community and will be completed in the fall. I will be pleased at that time to arrange a briefing of the Joint Committee on the findings in the report. In the interim, we can provide the Joint Committee a briefing on the knowledge of Soviet programs based on analysis conducted to date. My Office of Legislative Counsel will very shortly contact your staff and will make the necessary arrangements if you desire such a briefing.

I appreciate and understand your need for the most definitive information possible on this subject and trust that the information we provide will assist the Joint Committee in meeting its responsibilities.

Yours sincerely,

STANSFIELD TURNER